

August 4, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Attn: Commission Secretary
Marlene Dortch
445 12th St., S.W., CY-B402
Washington, D.C. 20554

FCC Proceeding: Docket No. 03-167

Dear Commissioners:

As Mayor of the City of Marietta, Ohio I would like to express my strong support for SBC's entry into the long distance market in Ohio. I am aware that 42 other states have approved the entry of local phone companies into long distance, and frankly think it is past time for the FCC to grant SBC the same business opportunity in Ohio.

Businesses and residential customers alike stand to benefit from the increased competition and lower long distance rates that will likely follow SBC's entry into the market. In the current sluggish economy, every effort should be made to further the full range of telecommunications services and savings potential for Ohioians.

I respectfully urge you to approve SBC's application to provide long distance service in the State of Ohio.

Respectfully,
Joe A. Matthews, Mayor